

BY C. & C. ZARLEY.

JOLIET, ILLINOIS, MAY 9, 1848.

VOLUME 5, NUMBER 48.

THE JOLIET SIGNAL.
Is published every Tuesday morning on Chicago-street, Joliet, Ill.
Terms.—Two Dollars per annum payable in advance, or \$2.50 if payment is delayed until the end of the year.
RATES OF ADVERTISING.
One Square, (12 lines or less), one insertion, \$1.
Each additional insertion, 25 cts.
6 months, 3 50
1 month, 50
Ordinary business cards per ann. 3
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MAN'S MISSION.

Human lives are silent teaching—
Be they earnest, mild and true—
Noblest deeds are noblest teaching
From the concentrated few.
Poet-priests their anthems singing,
Hero-sword on corselet ringing,
When truth's banner is unfurled;
Youthful preachers, genius gifted,
Pouring forth their souls uplifted,
Till their preaching stirs the world.

Life is combat, life is striving,
Such our destiny below—
Like a scythed chariot, driving
Through an onward pressing foe.
Deepest sorrow, scorn, and trial,
Will but teach us self-denial;
Like the Alchemist of old,
Pass the ore through cleansing fire,
If our spirit would aspire
To be God's refined gold.

We must bend our thoughts to earnest,
Would we strike the idols down;
With a purpose of the sternest,
Take the cross and leave the crown,
Suffering human life can hallow,
Sufferings lead to God's Valhalla—
Meekly hear, but nobly try,
Like a man with soft tears flowing,
Like a god with conquest glowing,
So to love, and work, and die!

SPERANZA.

CHAPTER ON PROPOSALS.

It will not be deemed vanity at my age to say that at twenty-five I was possessed of a full share of the personal charms of youth. Within a little of the Chesterfield standard of height, five feet ten, with locks as black as the raven's wings, (alas! the drifting snow is not whiter now!) with fair complexion, cheeks glowing with the red tide of youth and health, and possessing what is considered sufficient good sense and education for the practical purposes of life, it may be thought that my experience in matters of the heart ought to prove an exception to the rule that "the course of true love never runs smooth." But alas! not so! It was my misfortune to become acquainted with a young lady possessed of so many charms, mental, moral and personal, and so super eminent in each, that it was indeed impossible for me to avoid falling, as I did, desperately in love with her.

As far as glances of the eye, tremors of the voice, and occasional innuendoes might go, I doubt not that I succeeded full well in imparting to her a knowledge of the state of my heart; and I will not presume upon your patience so much as to detail the ecstasy of joy with which I first discovered, through a similar media, a reciprocity of feeling on the part of the young lady. Let it suffice to say that this was the case, and the time came when it was incumbent upon me to make a distinct avowal of my love. This, after long and perplexing debate, I resolved to do by letter, and after writing some forty epistles on as many sheets of gilded satin paper, I finally succeeded in forming a letter, amounting to about six lines, containing, as I thought, the condensed quintessence of everything that could or ought to be said on the subject. Of this precious *morceau*, I retain now but slight recollections. That it abounded with terms expressive of pure, warm, ardent, glowing, undying, everlasting and unprecedented affections, I have not the least doubt.

But unfortunately, this little specimen of epistolary excellence was scarcely finished, when chancing to pursue some of the experience of a predecessor in the path of love, I read that nothing was more unwise and dangerous, than making an offer of one's hand and heart by means of pen and paper.

With the credulity of a simple mind I at once gave implicit credence to his doctrine, and alarmed at the fearful precipice which I had so narrowly avoided, I immediately destroyed my letter and resolved to declare myself in person, with my own lips and voice, and to hear with my own ears the reply which was to seal my destiny.

Never did an Alexander, a Wallace, or a Napoleon, feel the inspiring effects of a resolution more powerfully than I felt the influence of this. I had resolved. I would execute! I walked the streets with a proud consciousness of the heroism of my resolution; and in the height of my pride, fairly feared lest, in the words of the poet, I should "strike the stars with my head." But sensible of the imperfections of human powers, and conscious that mine, in particular, were liable to fail on so delicate an emergency, I resolved at least to write and commit to memory my declaratory speech. This undignified and foolish thing I did. Instead of trusting to the warm outpourings of an ingenuous heart, which in some way at least would have managed to make itself understood and felt, I committed to memory a cold formula of words, to be delivered as the school-boy recites his speech, of which it is sufficient for the purpose of his little article to recollect the following sentence: "Miss Adams, will you allow me to offer you my hand and heart."

The fearful hour arrived. The evening of my wretched visit approached and I found myself seated by the side of my adored in the summer evening twilight.

The last rays of the setting sun had gradually disappeared from the rosy clouds that lingered about the West. The full moon rode high in the heaven, and one by one the stars became visible,—
"In such a night
Stood Dido with a willow in her hand
Upon the wide sea banks, and waived her love
To come to Carthage."

The opened window by which we sat looked out upon a garden strewed with a profusion of rich and rare flowers, from which were exhaled and rose around us, a delicious fragrance, forming a fit atmosphere for such a scene. The time, the silence, the scenery, everything was appropriate, and she, the beautiful, the almost unearthly, seemed by intuition to understand my thoughts and intentions, as with head bent down, she gazed earnestly, (and with a slight blush upon the fair cheeks around which her auburn curls were playing,) upon a moss-rose which she was earnestly engaged in pulling to pieces. I was employed in the equally serious occupation of opening and shutting a small fancy snuff box which I held in my hand.

Alas! where now was the Alexander or Napoleon courage that had inspired me! I felt my valor oozing out of the palms of my hands. But at length summoning resolution, like a man upon the scaffold who wishes to die with a least seeming fortitude, or to use a more forcible illustration, gathering together and concentrating, as it were, all the energies of my mind, after the manner of one about to submit to that most inhuman of all earthly tortures, the extraction of a tooth; I say, with such energy as this, I raised my eyes to those of Isabella, and in the language of my prepared speech said, "Miss Adams."

The unnecessary and startling emphasis with which this rather formal commencement was delivered, seriously frightened both parties. The rose dropped from her fingers, and the box from mine; and I was only able to follow up this impressive exordium with some commonplace remark about the beauty of the evening, after which we relapsed into our former silence.

Gathering, however, energy from defeat, I made, after a slight pause, a second attempt.
"Miss Adams," said I, in a slow, solemn sepulchral voice, "will you—will you—will you—allow me to offer you—to offer you—a pinch of snuff!"
"With pleasure, sir," replied a soft, sweet voice, which in contrast with my own, sounded like a strain of soft music following up the rumbling of an earthquake. I felt my eyes starting from my head. I felt the red blood mantling over my face, brow and neck. I felt the veins of my neck were swollen like the streams of a spring. I heard the loud beating of my heart; and in an agony of both bodily and mental pain, in which the rack, the wheel, and the gibbet were paradise, I rushed from them the room, hurried to my house, and entered my own chamber; locked, double, trebly locked the door, lest any one should observe my shame, and vented my spleen in idle imprecations on my own stupidity.

An hour's walk across my chamber served, however, to calm my spirits; and with a composure that seemed really supernatural, compared with my violent agitation, I sat down and wrote:

"Dear Isabella: Take pity on an unhappy youth unable to utter three consecutive words in your presence! I am miserable till I hear from you."
This note was immediately despatched, and in half an hour I was the happiest man in the universe. My Isabella proved a pattern of excellence. I was never offended with her but once, when she dispensed my wrath by asking me, in a mock serious tone of voice:—"will you—will you—allow me to offer you—a pinch of snuff!"—N. Y. Spirit of the Times.

"I pray you, O, excellent wife, number not yourself and me to get a curious rich dinner for this man and woman who alighted at our gates; nor a bed chamber, made ready at too great a cost, these things if they are curious in them, they can get for a few shillings in any village; but rather let this stranger see, if he will, in your looks, accents and behavior, your heart and earnestness, your thought and will, which he cannot buy at any price in any city, and which he may well travel twenty miles and dine sparingly and sleep hardly to behold. Let not the emphases of hospitality lie in bed and board; but let truth and love, and honor, and courtesy, flow in all thy deeds.

To BAD.—"I can't stand this," exclaimed a good house-wife to a Connecticut pedler;—"I didn't find a word of fault with your *sassafras* nummings, 'cause I know'd you couldn't afford real uns so cheap—and there was some spicy taste to 'em; but the last you sold me was made out of white oak. I declare, that's a leetle too bad, by a darned site."

Life.—Some one says:—Life is like a vast Railway Train, in which we are all compulsory passengers. On the outside is written, "No stoppage by the way." We get in at the cradle, and we are put down at the grave; we have just time to change clothes in the transit

RESOLUTIONS.**Of the Democratic State Convention.**

Mr. Cleveland, from the committee to prepare resolutions, reported the following, which were unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, it is alike the privilege and duty of freemen, when lawfully assembled, to give to all those subjects which materially concern their safety or happiness, whether of a state, national or individual character, a free, full and impartial investigation; and whereas, upon the issue of the presidential struggle, and in connection therewith of our state campaign, are pending interests of no ordinary magnitude and importance—interests which deeply concern and ought thoroughly to arouse every American citizen; and convinced as we are from a candid and impartial survey of the history of our government, that our best and only assurance of a wholesome administration of public affairs, and of permanent national and individual prosperity, is based upon the ascendancy of democratic principles; therefore,

Resolved, that we urge upon all who revere the name and profess the principles of the democratic party—discarding all minor, sectional or personal differences, earnestly or vigorously to combine their efforts in the support of the cause and the candidates, recommended by this convention; that while we pledge our best personal endeavors to the more perfect organization of the democratic party, we respectfully exhort our friends throughout the state and nation to the same zeal and diligence, that we may march together as one man, to a glorious triumph, under the broad banner of democracy, bearing the noble inscription, "Union, harmony, concession—everything for the cause—nothing for men."

Resolved, that our confidence in the present democratic administration of the general government is unabated; that the President of the United States, meeting as he has from the very outset of his eventful administration up to the present moment the most malignant and bitter opposition from that party which in the language of John Quincy Adams, "has no cement of union, except hatred to better men than themselves," that has been known since the first term of President Jefferson—has nevertheless exhibited a devotion to republican principles, a love of country, a frankness, talent and statesmanlike independence that have gained for him the secret respect of his enemies, and entitle him to the gratitude and confidence of the American people.

Resolved, that the signal ability, integrity and firmness evinced by the several heads of the departments at Washington in the discharge of their peculiarly arduous and responsible trusts, entitle and will secure to them the enthusiastic gratitude of the democratic party and the nation at large.

Resolved, that we recur with pride and pleasure to the honorable position obtained for themselves and their state by our Senators in Congress, and the majority of our delegation in the House of Representatives; and we hereby tender them our cordial thanks for their efficient and vigorous support of measures demanded by the exigencies and conducive to the welfare of their state and country, and their unflinching adherence to the well-known doctrines of the democratic party.

Resolved, that the independent treasury which was originally founded by Washington; which Martin Van Buren so earnestly and self-sacrificingly labored to re-establish, and which was finally re-adopted by the present administration—surpasses the expectations of its most sanguine defenders. While it secures to the people a constitutional and reliable currency in all their transactions with the government—preserves the public funds from the use of gamblers and speculators and the depredations of defaulters—it has a most salutary effect in correcting the evils with which over-banking and over-trading have afflicted the country. We believe that the democracy throughout the Union will struggle manfully before they will see this great republican measure sacrificed to a mammoth monied oligarchy.

Resolved, that we hail with triumph the glorious success of the "Tariff of '46," which success has established beyond cavil the soundness of the democratic policy and silenced effectually the vain croakings and scattered to the winds the false and fearful predictions of these panic-struck wily prophets, who without faith in the efficacy of the laws of trade, or the ability of the people to take care of themselves have always looked to a high tariff as the only specific which would preserve the vigor and keep the body politic in a healthy state.

Resolved, that we here renewedly declare our hostility to a United States Bank, and all kindred institutions, whether of a state or a national character, authorized by either general or special laws. Their history since the organization of our government has been little else than a tale of knavery and treachery—of wild and bewildering expansions followed by ruinous contractions and disastrous failures—of periodical panics, devised for political effect—of alarming irregularities in the exchanges and the whole circulating medium—a system by which unprincipled gamblers and speculators have been raised to affluence on the ruin of their honest

and industrious neighbors—a system, in short, which has too generally proved adverse to the spirit of our republican institutions, and destructive of the vital interests of the people. Believing this we earnestly admonish the people of this country, and especially of this state, to take heed that they be not deluded into the support of men, whose dearest, though covert, political end is the establishment of a "fifty million bank!"

Resolved, that our warmest gratitude is hereby cordially tendered, to the officers and soldiers—regulars and volunteers, of the American army for their repeated and brilliant triumphs their uniform good conduct and gallant bearing, during the present war. We refer with peculiar pride and satisfaction to the heroism and soldier-like deportment of the Illinois troops in all those hard-fought fields in which they were engaged. Their conduct has proved to the world that our citizen soldiery, though nurtured under the gentler influences of peace, is nevertheless worthy the heroic spirit of its ancestry, and as terrible in the field as the veteran standing armies of the old world.

Resolved, that we lament sincerely the brave officers and men who have given up their lives, a splendid sacrifice upon the altar of their country's honor during the present war. The manner of their death shows that life and its allurement were held by them of little worth compared with the dignity and honor of their country—in sustaining with proper energy her stern demands of justice to our injured fellow-citizens—and reparation for repeated insults to our national flag. A nation's blessing like a beautiful diadem will rest forever upon their memories.

Resolved, that while we love not the strife and deprecate the horrors of war, yet we do not ask for peace at the expense of our national honor or the sacrifice of our just claims; that we are opposed to any treaty of peace that does not indemnify our citizens to the full extent for all their private claims—our government for all the expenses occasioned by the war, and furnish ample and perfect security for the future.

Resolved, that we regard the proposed addition of territory as desirable and inevitable, and will welcome its acquisition as our just and righteous due, and as the means of increasing the valuable resources, the commercial and industrial advantages, and adding to the enduring greatness of the American republic; that we endorse the sentiment so well expressed by the President, that "the doctrine of 'no territory' is the doctrine of 'no indemnity,' and if sanctioned would be a public acknowledgment that our country was wrong and that the war declared by Congress with extraordinary unanimity was unjust and should be abandoned—an admission unfounded in fact and degrading to the national character."

Resolved, that should the Mexican nation spurn the liberal overtures again made to them by our government, from that moment the war should be promptly renewed and "vigorously prosecuted" without interruption to a successful termination.

Resolved, that the preservation of the union of these states, in which are involved the hopes of freedom throughout the world, as well as our own prosperity, safety and national existence, is an object of paramount importance, never to be endangered for particular interests, nor sacrificed to abstract opinions; that our happy constitution itself was declared by its august framers to be the result of a spirit of amity and of mutual deference and concession, which the peculiarity of our political situation renders absolutely necessary at all times; that while we sincerely regret the existence of the institution of slavery, we are constrained to believe that by the compromises of the constitution the subject is wholly given over to the jurisdiction of those states which have the misfortune to be burdened with the system; we therefore deprecate and condemn all intemperate discussion and unnecessary agitation of the subject as calculated to endanger the permanence of the Union, without effecting any corresponding good.

Resolved, that we look forward to the deliberations of the democratic national convention soon to assemble at Baltimore, with something of solicitude but without distrust, believing that it will be composed of clear headed and high-minded men, who will banish discord from their councils, and whose action will be such as the crisis and the times demand, and we hereby unreservedly and unconditionally pledge our cordial support to the men whom they may select to bear the standard of our principles and lead us on to victory.

Resolved, that in Gen. LEWIS CASS we recognize a man who by a life of arduous service in various responsible posts has evinced the highest endowments of the soldier and statesman, the diplomatist and patriot. His eminent attainments, his unsullied fame and uncompromising devotion to true American principles in times of the severest trial, mark him as a suitable candidate for the highest office in the nation's gift. And while we thus express our preference for him for that responsible station, we at the same time agree to abide uncomplainingly by the decision of the convention, whatever it may be.

Resolved, that we cherish the most enthusiastic regard for the name and character of the Hon. LEVI WOODBURY. We can never forget the ability and firmness with which he administered the treasury department of the government during the panic crisis, nor the energy and power with which he resisted the odious tariff of '42. His eminent public and private worth, his gigantic intellect, his republican simplicity and proverbial courtesy constitute a combination of qualities which peculiarly fit him for the highest station in the people's gift. In the event of his nomination by the Baltimore convention, he will receive our earnest and undivided support.

Resolved, that it is with mingled feelings of regret and contempt that we review the course of the whig party in Congress since the commencement of the present war. A beautiful illustration of their well known consistency, political integrity and sagacity is furnished by a comparison of their votes, in one of which, on the 13th of May, 1846, they declare that "war exists by the act of Mexico," and in the other, on the 3d of January, 1848, that it was "unconstitutionally and unnecessarily begun by the President." An illustration equally happy is found in the course of that man whom they try to follow thro' all his mysterious windings, and whose behests they are ready to obey, though he tell them to write "lies and traitor" on their own brows; the man who little more than a year ago in New Orleans, wished for some "nook or corner in the army," that he might have opportunity "to capture or slay a Mexican," and thus "help to avenge the wrongs of his injured country," and yet a few months since at Lexington, denounced that war as "unholy, unjust, and unconstitutional."

Resolved, that the course and conduct of Mexico towards the government and citizens of the United States has been uniformly and continually perfidious and base; that not content with violating repeatedly the most solemn treaty obligations, with robbing and imprisoning our citizens, she finally forced upon us the dread alternative of war, by pouring upon our soil the armed and perennized victims of her lawless ambition; that the annexation of Texas was an act of true philanthropy, as well as sound national policy, and not infringing in the remotest degree upon the rights of any other nation; and that the course pursued by the whig party in characterizing it as an outrage upon Mexico, and the war which they voted to exist by the act of Mexico, an act of atrocity on our part, serves only to prolong the contest, inspire the Mexicans with confidence, and identify the whig party of '48 with the factious federalists of 1812.

Resolved, that the whig party, though they dare not openly avow it, are nevertheless hostile to the present tariff and the independent treasury, and favorable to the re-establishment of the unjust tariff of '42, a national bank, and a system of lavish expenditures by the general government for purposes of local and unconstitutional improvements; that their success in the approaching presidential campaign would in our opinion be followed by an immediate attempt to demolish those admirable financial structures which the present administration has so assiduously reared, and revive upon their ruins their own exploded and oft condemned schemes.

Resolved, that we are totally indifferent as to whom the whig national convention may select as its standard bearer in the approaching strife, whether it be the man of such an endless and inconvenient contrariety of sentiments upon all questions of national concern, or the man who boasts that he has not, never had, and never will have any opinions upon any subject of a civil nature; in either or neither case we are convinced that the triumph of democratic principles, whoever their chosen exponent may be, will be as signal and complete in the approaching campaign as in that memorable struggle which resulted in the reelection of the patriotic JACKSON.

Resolved, that as the friends of civil and religious freedom, and the enemies of all "holy alliances" for unholy ends, we hail with sentiments of unbounded gratitude and admiration the late splendid struggles of the French and other nations of Europe against the slavish maxims of their corrupt and oppressive governments, and the efforts of intemperate rulers to keep their subjects in ignorance & submission. May all these movements be eminently successful in teaching men to whom power has been delegated the danger of resisting the call for improvement, or trampling ruthlessly upon the image of God. May the sword continue to blaze above the wreck of royalty and the destruction of the enemies of man, until all God's children shall have attained the entire possession of those rights which are their due, and until the last throne of the last tyrant shall have been dashed to atoms.

Resolved, that we regard the common schools as among the most sacred and valuable of our state institutions; that they are eminently entitled to the fostering care of the government, and that we will heartily co-operate in all lawful and judicious plans for their improvement.

Resolved, that observation and experience enforce the importance of a rigid